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Letter dated 17 August 2007 from the Permanent Representative of China to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to enclose the assessment of the work of the Security Council during the presidency of China for the month of July 2007 (see annex). This assessment has been prepared under my own responsibility following consultations with other members of the Security Council. I should be grateful if the present letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

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Annex to the letter dated 17 August 2007 from the Permanent Representative of China to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Assessment of the work of the Security Council during the presidency of China (July 2007)

During the presidency of China, the Security Council held 14 meetings and consultations of the whole on 14 occasions. Five resolutions and three presidential statements were adopted. The President also made three statements to the press on behalf of the Council.

Africa

Central African Republic

On 3 July, in consultations of the whole, the Security Council heard a briefing from the Special Representative of the Secretary-General, General Lamine Cissé, on the situation in the Central African Republic and the work of the United Nations Peacebuilding Support Office in that country (BONUCA). In a press statement (SC/9069) delivered afterwards, the Council members encouraged the Central African Republic authorities to organize a dialogue with all political forces and civil society in order to consolidate peace and stability and to intensify its efforts, with the help of its international partners, to fight poverty and promote sustainable economic development. The Council members also expressed their appreciation to the Central African Economic and Monetary Community for the action of the Community's Multinational Force in the Central African Republic, as well as to the African Union and the European Union for their political support.

Guinea-Bissau

On 10 July, in consultations of the whole, the Representative of the Secretary-General in Guinea-Bissau, Shola Omoregie, briefed the Security Council on developments in Guinea-Bissau and the activities of the United Nations Peacebuilding Support Office in that country. While highlighting some progress that had been made, the Special Representative pointed out that the political situation in Guinea-Bissau remained fragile, and urgent assistance was needed. Immediately following the meeting, the President of the Council made a statement (SC/9075) to the press, in which the Council members welcomed the formation of the new Government of Guinea-Bissau and hoped that the political and government stability pact would set the foundation for a genuine reconciliation process. The Council members also expressed their concerns over the tense social climate and the continuing deterioration of the socio-economic and financial situation in Guinea-Bissau. They appealed to the international community to continue to support Guinea-Bissau.

Western Sahara

At its consultations on 11 July, the Security Council considered the report of the Secretary-General on the status and progress of negotiations on Western Sahara (S/2007/385), and the Personal Envoy of the Secretary-General for Western Sahara,

Peter van Walsum, briefed the Council on the recent developments, including the meeting held on 18 and 19 June 2007 in accordance with resolution 1754 (2007). After the consultations, the President of the Council read out a press statement (SC/9076), in which the Council members supported the agreement by the parties that negotiations would continue in the second week of August under United Nations auspices and expressed their hope that the parties would use the next round of negotiations to engage in good faith in substantial negotiations on the way forward in accordance with resolution 1754 (2007).

Côte d'Ivoire

On 11 July, in consultations of the whole, the Assistant Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations, Hédi Annabi, briefed the Security Council on the latest developments regarding the peace process in Côte d'Ivoire, especially after the attack on 29 June. The Assistant Secretary-General described that the attack had had no visible impact so far on the peace process in Côte d'Ivoire. However, the international community should remain vigilant and carefully monitor both the security situation and the longer-term impact of the incident. While commending the positive development of the peace process, the Council members urged the Ouagadougou Agreement to be fully implemented. On 16 July, the Council unanimously adopted resolution 1765 (2007), which renewed the mandates of the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire (UNOCI) and of the French forces until 15 January 2008.

Chad/Central African Republic

On 13 July, in consultations of the whole, the Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations, Jean-Marie Guéhenno, briefed the Security Council on the French proposal to send an interim European Union force to protect refugees in eastern Chad and north-eastern Central African Republic. The proposal received positive response among Council members. Some members of the Council stressed that the operation should seek the consent of the Governments concerned. Many members also wanted further information from the Secretariat. The members of the Council reiterated their concerns about the humanitarian situation in the region, and looked forward to the Secretary-General reporting on his recent consultations with the Governments of Chad and of the Central African Republic.

Security Council mission to Africa

On 16 July, the Security Council held a debate, during which the Permanent Representatives of South Africa, Peru and France, leaders of the Security Council mission to Africa, and the Chargé d'affaires of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, presented the report of the mission (S/2007/421 and Corr.1) and highlighted the findings and recommendations therein. The representatives of Ghana, Belgium, China, Côte d'Ivoire and the Democratic Republic of the Congo also made statements. The Council members emphasized the importance of exchange of views with the African Union Peace and Security Council on peace and security matters, and deemed it useful for the two bodies to meet once a year. The Council members considered it important to explore how the United Nations could, on a case-by-case basis, assist the African Union with resources, in particular in cases where the African Union was acting under the mandate of the Council. The Permanent Observer of the African Union fully endorsed the mission's report, and

stressed the urgent need to support the Union in setting up its peace and security architecture.

Somalia sanctions

On 23 July, the Security Council unanimously adopted resolution 1766 (2007), which extended the mandate of the Monitoring Group referred to in paragraph 3 of resolution 1558 (2004) and requested the Secretary-General to re-establish the Monitoring Group for a further six months. The resolution requested a midterm briefing and a final report on the work of the Monitoring Group, requested the Committee established pursuant to resolution 751 (1992) to consider the recommendations covered in the relevant reports of the Monitoring Group, and stressed the obligation of all Member States to comply fully with the measures imposed by resolution 733 (1992).

Democratic Republic of the Congo

On 18 July, the Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations, Jean-Marie Guéhenno, briefed the Security Council on the recent security situation in the Kivus, east of the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Following that, the Council adopted a Presidential Statement (S/PRST/2007/28) on 23 July, expressing its deep concern at the deteriorating security situation in the east of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, urging all actors involved to refrain from any action leading to a military confrontation and to seek a solution to the current crisis through political and diplomatic means.

On 23 July, the Permanent Representative of Peru and Chairman of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1533 (2003) concerning the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ambassador Jorge Voto-Bernales, introduced to the Council recent discussions of the Committee on the review of the sanctions and on the final report of the Group of Experts pursuant to resolution 1698 (2006) (S/2007/423). On 31 July, the Council unanimously adopted resolution 1768 (2007), extending the measures on arms, transport, and other financial and travel measures, imposed by relevant resolutions, as well as the mandate of the Group of Experts, until 10 August 2007.

Ethiopia/Eritrea

On 24 July, in consultations of the whole, the Assistant Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations, Hédi Annabi, introduced the latest report of the Secretary-General on Ethiopia and Eritrea (S/2007/440) and briefed the Security Council on recent developments. On 30 July, the Council adopted resolution 1767 (2007), in which it extended the mandate of the United Nations Mission in Ethiopia and Eritrea (UNMEE) until 31 January 2008. The resolution called on the parties to maintain their full commitment to the Agreement on Cessation of Hostilities and to de-escalate the situation, and to implement the delimitation decision of the Ethiopia-Eritrea Boundary Commission and to cooperate fully with the Boundary Commission. The Council welcomed the continuation of the ongoing efforts by the Secretary-General, including towards the earliest appointment of a Special Representative.

Sudan

On 11 July, a draft resolution was circulated among the Security Council members. The draft proposed, inter alia, the authorization of the African Union/United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur and outlined the operation's size, mandate and structure. After a series of tense consultations, on 31 July the Council adopted unanimously resolution 1769 (2007), which authorized the establishment, for an initial period of 12 months, of the Hybrid Operation. The Secretary-General addressed the Council after the vote, describing the resolution as historic and unprecedented. He also attached great importance to the political process, which would bring lasting peace to Darfur by a comprehensive agreement. The members of the Council welcomed the resolution and committed to continue the cooperation with the African Union and the Government of Sudan, in order to achieve the timely deployment of the Hybrid Operation and solve the Darfur issue properly.

Asia

Afghanistan

On 17 July, in consultations of the whole, the Security Council received a briefing from the Assistant Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations, Hédi Annabi, on the situation in Afghanistan and a series of international initiatives, including the Rome Conference on the Rule of Law in Afghanistan 2 and 3 July, as well as the visit of the Secretary-General to Kabul. Immediately afterwards, the Council adopted a presidential statement (S/PRST/2007/27), welcoming recent international initiatives, noting that these developments reinforce the progress made in pursuing a comprehensive approach to the security, governance and development of Afghanistan, and reiterating its support for the continuing endeavours by the Afghan Government, with the assistance of the international community, to further improve the security situation and to continue to address the threat posed by the Taliban, Al-Qaida and other extremist groups.

Iraq

On 6 July, the President of the Security Council replied to the Secretary-General (S/2007/413) confirming that the Council welcomed and supported the announced immediate planning for the construction of a new United Nations integrated compound in Baghdad and had no objection to his intention to proceed with a request to the General Assembly for the necessary funds, in accordance with the established procedure.

Lebanon

On 18 July, in consultations of the whole, the Security Council heard two briefings, one by the United Nations Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process, Michael Williams, on the latest report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of resolution 1701 (2006) (S/2007/392) and the report of the Lebanon Independent Border Assessment Team (S/2007/382), and the other by the Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations, Jean-Marie Guéhenno, on the work of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL). The members of the Council reiterated the importance of the full implementation of all provisions of resolution 1701 (2006) and expected all concerned parties to cooperate fully with

the Council and the Secretary-General to achieve a permanent cease-fire and a long term solution as envisioned in the resolution. Some members also expressed concerns on Israeli violations of Lebanese air space, reports of breaches of the arms embargo, and attacks against UNIFIL, etc.

On 19 July, the Commissioner of the International Independent Investigation Commission, Serge Brammertz, briefed the Council on the eighth report on the investigation into the assassination of former Lebanese Prime Minister Rafik Hariri and other victims (S/2007/424). The Commissioner said that a number of people of interest had been identified who may have been involved in some aspects of the assassination of Rafik Hariri, and common links had been found across a number of cases. He also warned the Council that the security situation in Lebanon had deteriorated, and stressed that the security of witnesses and people who cooperated with the Commission needed to be guaranteed. The Council also heard a statement by the Permanent Representative of Lebanon. Afterwards, in consultations of the whole, the members of the Council reaffirmed their support for the work of the Investigation Commission and hoped that it would bring the truth to light at an early date so as to ensure justice for the victims.

The situation in the Middle East, including the Palestinian question

On 25 July, the Security Council heard the monthly open briefing on the situation in the Middle East, including the Palestinian question, by the United Nations Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process, Michael Williams. The Special Coordinator said that over the past month there had been a number of important developments giving cause for hope, with the most notable one being the re-engagement of the international community and Israel with the Palestinian Government of Prime Minister Salam Fayyad. He also told the Council that the positive developments were offset by a problematic and increasingly complex reality on the ground where violence continued and the humanitarian situation deteriorated. Afterwards, in consultations of the whole, the members of the Council agreed in general with the assessment of the situation by the Special Coordinator.

Nepal

On 26 July, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Ian Martin, presented to the Council the latest report of the Secretary-General on the request of Nepal for United Nations support for the peace process (S/2007/442). The Special Representative pointed out that if the Constituent Assembly election was to take place in November this year, considerable work needed to be done in political and security areas, and related legislative, technical and logistical matters needed to be addressed as early as possible. The Council members reiterated their support for the peace process of Nepal, and called for a timely, fair and transparent election.

Europe

Kosovo (Serbia)

On 9 July, in consultations of the whole, the Security Council was briefed by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Kosovo, Joachim Rücker, who presented the report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK) (S/2007/395) and introduced the work

progress of the mission and challenges ahead. The Council members expressed their comments and expectations regarding the work of UNMIK.

On 16 and 20 July, the Council members continued the discussion on the revised draft resolution on the Kosovo future status, introduced by the European members of the Council, the United States of America and Germany. After full discussion and exchange of views, the Council members still could not reach any agreement on the draft resolution. The co-sponsors therefore decided to suspend work on the draft resolution.

Georgia

On 26 July, at a meeting held in private, the Assistant Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations, Hédi Annabi, presented the report of the Secretary-General on the situation in Abkhazia, Georgia (S/2007/439). The Permanent Representative of Georgia participated in the discussion. In the following consultations of the whole, the Council members further discussed the situation in Abkhazia, welcomed the meeting of senior representatives of the Group of Friends in Bonn on 27 and 28 June, and urged the parties to implement relevant Security Council resolutions and the understandings reached at the meeting of the Group of Friends. Hope was expressed by a number of Council members that an informal meeting of Council members with the other side of the conflict could be held as soon as possible.

Other issues

Report of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1718 (2006)

On 10 July, in consultations of the whole, the Permanent Representative of Italy and Chairperson of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1718 (2006), Ambassador Marcello Spatafora, briefed the Council on the work of the Committee covering the period from 17 April to 10 July 2007, in accordance with paragraph 12 (g) of resolution 1718 (2006). Ambassador Spatafora informed the Council that the Committee adopted the guidelines for the conduct of its work on 20 June 2007. He also noted that, while affirming that the primary responsibility for implementing the provisions of resolution 1718 (2006) rested with States, the Committee — when requested — stood ready to facilitate implementation of these measures.

Security Council Informal Working Group on Documentation and Other Procedural Questions

On 10 July, the Permanent Representative of Slovakia, Ambassador Peter Burian, presented to the Security Council an interim report in his capacity as Chairman of the Informal Working Group on Documentation and Other Procedural Questions. The members of the Council appreciated the work of the Informal Working Group and expressed their support for measures that could improve the efficiency and transparency of the Council.

Working Group of the Security Council on Children and Armed Conflict

On 23 July, the Permanent Representative of France and the Chairman of the Working Group of the Security Council on Children and Armed Conflict, Ambassador Jean-Marc de la Sablière, briefed the Council members on the annual report on the activities of the Working Group (S/2007/428). The members of the Council appreciated the efforts by Ambassador de la Sablière during his chairmanship, raised their comments on the activities of the Working Group, and expressed their expectations that the future work of the Working Group could further improve the situation of children in armed conflict.

Threats to international peace and security caused by terrorist acts

On 9 July, the President of the Security Council read out a presidential statement (S/PRST/2007/26) concerning the terrorist attacks in Marib, Republic of Yemen, on 2 July 2007. In the statement, the Council unequivocally condemned the terrorist acts and expressed its deepest sympathy and condolences to the victims and their families, and to the peoples and Governments of the Republic of Yemen and the Kingdom of Spain. The Council underlined the need for those involved in acts of terrorism to be brought to justice, and urged all States, in accordance with their international obligations, to support and assist the Government of Yemen in this regard.